

# TRAVEL

YOU WON'T  
BE BOARD:  
Zakopane is  
the best for  
winter sports



## on the piste south Poland

everywhere and while I prefer my roast pork without Euro cheese by the time I heard the my first blast of Polish folk music lubricated with a few bison vodkas, I was anybody's.

There are plenty of excellent hotels in the resort but as we'd booked at mid-term break, availability can be an issue.

Not that there was anything wrong with the accommodation we were allocated.

Anna Obrochta's, or the Irish chalet as it is also known, is easily among the most warm and welcoming homes I've had the pleasure of staying in.

Tucked in a quiet laneway, 10 minutes drive from town, her chalet could have been plucked from a Robert Frost poem.

With ice-coated elders glistening in the moonlight, the satisfying sound of fresh snow crushed underfoot and the mighty Tatra mountains in the distance, you could get lost in such a senuous feast.

But it was impossible not to submit to the inviting hospitality you might expect from a favourite aunt. And like any favourite aunt, Anna keeps a great kitchen.

This is hearty, wholesome organic Polish fayre. Warming broths, tender pork (Poles love their swine) kebabs, winter salads, floury potatoes and seasonal veg will fill your plates at dinner every night exactly what your body will crave after a day on the slopes.

The skiing itself is wonderful and Sun-

shine World will take you from your chalet to the slopes and back again.

There are runs to suit all abilities from the easier Harenda to the white-knuckle blacks of Nosal.

So there it is, the first ski holiday Karl Marx would approve of. Power to the people but more power to you, Alan Garcia.



EXHILARATING:  
Snow mobiles  
through the  
mountains



STUNNING: Folgarida, North Italy

## Not too late to grab a skiing deal

EQUITY Ski has a week's all-in ski holiday for just £524.

The price includes return flights from Manchester to the Italian resort of Folgarida, ski lift pass, insurance, tuition and guiding.

Transfers and ski equipment hire are also included for the March 17 departure.

Departing a day earlier from Manchester and Gatwick and for the same great price, Equity Ski also has a week's all-in ski holiday for £524 per person.

That will also include half-board accommodation in the ClubHotel Franou in the French resort of Vars les Claux.

Call Equity Ski on 01273 622111 or book on-line at [www.equityski.co.uk](http://www.equityski.co.uk).

LATE deals from  
Falcon Direct, based on two  
sharing and leaving Belfast Interna-  
tional Airport  
TENERIFE seven nights, flight only March 23  
from £224  
GRAN CANARIA seven nights self-catering March  
23 £245  
PORTUGAL seven nights self-catering April 12  
£229  
LANZAROTE seven nights self-catering  
April 12 £235  
Visit [www.falconholidays.co.uk/late-  
deals](http://www.falconholidays.co.uk/late-deals) or call Falcon Direct  
on 028 90 389359

## Stena leads the way

STENA Line has once again become the only ferry or cruise business to achieve the prestigious Hospitality Assured Standard for Service and Business Excellence on its Irish Sea routes to Britain.

The international accreditation puts Stena Line on a par with organisations of the calibre of Marriott Hotels, Warner Holidays, Crowne Plaza and Centre Parcs.

It's the sixth year in succession it have met the required standard.

All its vessels across have the Hospitality Assured quality marke, which is awarded only in the hospitality and leisure sector.

To check out why Stena is held in such high regard in the industry, visit [www.stenaline.co.uk](http://www.stenaline.co.uk) and book yourself a trip.

## The rail Italian job

RAILBOOKERS, specialists in European rail holidays, have created an eight-day holiday by train including Venice, Florence and Rome.

The holiday includes return Eurostar from London to Paris, return sleeper train travel from Paris to Italy, two nights in each city plus transfers between the three cities by First Class Eurostar Italia.

This incredible trip offers you the time to soak up the Italian culture and explore the historic Italian cities.

For further information visit: [www.railbookers.com](http://www.railbookers.com) or call 0870 458 9087

